

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I have often said that, even though the sun is shining after hurricanes and storms, the people are still hurting. Houston is resilient—and I might just say, “Go Astros”—but I think it is important to talk about those who are impacted by Hurricane Harvey.

I rise to help FEMA, because there is a large percentage of denials in my district. I believe that there should be a large promotion, if you will, informational provision to indicate to people the process for appealing FEMA denials.

FEMA, itself, admits that many times the denials are based upon technical issues, that they should go to disaster recovery centers; but no one knows that if there is not a massive effort of information, number one.

Number two, there are still in the thousands of homes in and around my district and in Texas that are waiting for FEMA inspectors.

I have offered suggestions. Those suggestions should be taken up: college students, using resources of finding temporary employees, people who are already working but may have the skills to spend some hours as a FEMA inspector.

In my phone are so many pictures of homes with garbage outside, people's belongings. It is now garbage. It is their belongings. It is their life out on the front steps of their home. They are waiting for an inspector. The New York Times article says they are waiting for an inspector.

FEMA, let's work together. People are hurting. That should be part of our recovery and our appropriation coming up.

NORTH KOREA HAS WON THE TITLE: A STATE SPONSOR OF TERRORISM

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the saber-rattling rogue regime of North Korea should be back on the state sponsors of terrorism list, and here is why:

This year, the North Korean regime kidnapped, tortured, and killed American citizen Otto Warmbier.

In 2014, North Korea launched a cyber terrorist attack against Sony Pictures. A U.S. court also found, in 2014, that North Korea materially supported terrorist attacks by Hezbollah in Israel.

In 2010, another court found that North Korea provided support for the terrorist organization the Japanese Red Army for their 1972 attack at an Israeli airport.

In 2009 alone, there were three weapons shipments from North Korea to terrorist groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

U.S. officials have said North Korea aided Assad the Butcher by setting up

a nuclear reactor that was destroyed by Israel in 2007.

Mr. Speaker, it is clear, North Korea is a state sponsor of terrorism, so let's let them officially wear the title along with their buddy, Iran.

And that is just the way it is.

□ 1845

MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS ARE SICK AND TIRED

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, middle class Americans are sick and tired; sick and tired of footing the bill so that rich-folk millionaires and billionaires can get another tax break.

The Republicans' proposed tax reform plan is nothing but a tax cut for rich folks. It translates to increasing taxes for the poor and middle class families in our country. That means that families already struggling to make ends meet will have a tougher time making that car note, that mortgage, and gaining nothing in return.

As a country, the GOP billionaire tax cut plan steals hundreds of billions of dollars from the U.S. Treasury. That means that we can't make crucial investments in infrastructure, job training, or research and development that would help give people a good-paying job.

Reducing our tax base also translates into cuts to popular programs like Medicare. You know how much everybody likes that.

The American people want tax reform, but not a plan that would literally jeopardize families' livelihoods. We must put middle class families first in this country, and the GOP tax plan fails to do that. We can and must do better for the American people.

LIFE IS WASHABLE PROVIDES FRIENDLY ACCESS SENSORY SAFETY KITS

(Ms. TENNEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TENNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Life Is Washable, an organization that provides comfort and support to individuals suffering from sensory processing disorders.

Locally, through their partnership with the Jim and Juli Boenheim Foundation, Life Is Washable provides friendly access sensory safety kits at sporting events and concerts across the region.

Often, guests suffering from a sensory disorder or a medical condition that impacts the senses, including autism or dementia, find it difficult to enjoy loud, brightly lit events.

The tools in these kits range from earmuffs to antiglare glasses, and help ensure that those with sensory needs

can enjoy a sporting event or concert comfortably without the usual burdens they experience. This innovative approach has helped improve the quality of these events for those with sensory disorders across the country.

So far, several major venues in New York have begun using these kits, including the Veterans Memorial Arena in Binghamton and the Carrier Dome in Syracuse.

We are grateful to Life Is Washable for the important steps their staff has taken locally to reduce the burdens on those suffering from a sensory processing disorder.

WE NEED TO BAN BUMP STOCKS

(Mrs. TORRES asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. TORRES. Mr. Speaker, it has been almost 1 month since the mass shooting in Las Vegas occurred; 58 dead, more than 500 injured, many from California—the deadliest shooting in our history.

And here we are, 1 month later, and I am ashamed to say that this Congress has not taken a single action to prevent the next shooting.

After the shooting, 64 Republicans signed a letter to ATF, asking ATF to regulate bump stocks. ATF just notified us that it could not act. It could not act. The ball is back in our court.

Will those Members act now? Representative CICILLINE has introduced a commonsense bill to ban bump stocks. If you signed the letter, you should cosponsor the bill. It is that simple. What are you waiting for?

Mr. Speaker, there are some problems that we cannot solve, but this one is not one of those.

A FEDERAL GRANT PROGRAM TO PROVIDE A SAFE HAVEN FOR COMPANION ANIMALS

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to shed light on domestic violence during this month of October, I would like to highlight a bill, H.R. 909, the Pet and Women Safety Act.

This necessary bipartisan legislation introduced by my friend Representative KATHERINE CLARK and I will establish a Federal grant program to provide a safe haven for the companion animals of domestic violence victims.

Studies show that almost half of domestic violence survivors do not leave their abusive relationships out of fear of what would happen to their beloved pets. When less than 5 percent of domestic violence shelters are able to house pets, it is no wonder why so many victims choose to stay in these relationships for as long as they do.

Our bill empowers these victims and gives them the necessary resources to help them step out of the shadow of fear and uncertainty.